

Remarks

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The claims currently presented are shown on the attached sheet.

Claims 1 – 8 stand rejected, and have been cancelled.

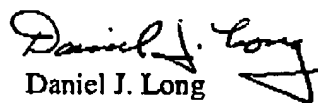
Claims 9 – 20 stand rejected under 35USC101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 9 – 20 of Application No. 10/334,317, now U.S. Patent No. 6,996,443.

Claims 9 – 10 are, in fact, not included in U.S. Patent 6,996,443 so applicant believes that they should now be allowable.

Applicant was unable to reach the Examiner by telephone last month and this month, but applicant's undersigned attorney did reach Supervisory Examiner Thomas Black who advised that claims 9 – 20 should not be subject to a double patenting rejection in this situation, to the best of his knowledge.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that any matters are still at issue, he is requested to contact applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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